ST. AIDAN'S COLLEGE, BIRKENHEAD.

To the mission of which St. Aidan was the most prominent member, Saxon England is indebted for the conversion of a great part of the north, before St. Augustine set foot in the island.

A site has been purchased at Birkenhead, in the immediate neighbourhood of the park, on which it is proposed to erect, "with the highest sanction in Church and State, an extensive range of buildings as a collegiate establishment, similar in character to, and devoted to the same high and holy purposes as, the time-honoured universities of Oxford and Cambridge." The want of such an institution in the north-west of England has long been felt, and the heads of the Church consider this locality well adapted to promote the success of the project. Its object is "to combine theological and general education with the pastoral care of the masses of the people, the extension of missionary exertion, and other works of Christian piety and usefulness, in accordance with the doctrines and discipline of the Church."

The college will consist of a patron, visitor, council, and board. The Liverpool Foreigners' Mission will be connected with the college. Its chaplains will be the professors of languages in the college. This mission has already accomplished the care of the German, Italian, and French sailors and residents in Liverpool. The formation of this college originated with the Rev. Joseph Baylee, A.M., the future principal. This gentleman has for several years been engaged in the formation and development of this work. Amongst the members of the committee are to be found the names of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Marquis of Westminster, Lords Denbigh, Harrowby, Feilding, Ashley M.P., H. Cholmondeley, Robert Grosvenor, M.P., the Warden of Wadham College, and the Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, the Archdeacon, and the Rector of Liverpool, &c.; the Marquis of Blandford, M.P., acting as honorary secretary.

The building, of which we give a perspective view, is intended for the reception of fifty pupils and fifty students (each having a separate study and dormitory), with power of future extension, with the necessary school-rooms, class-rooms, professors' rooms, &c. A refectory, 50 feet by 30 feet; library, 60 feet by 30 feet; museums; an infirmary; vice-principal's residence, with the necessary accommodation for matron and servants. The present group of buildings occupy a site of 250 feet by 200 feet. A chapel, connected with the college by an open cloister, is contemplated. The building is to be fronted with stone,—the moulded and dressed work with a light coloured sandstone, of fine texture, from quarries situated about four or five miles from Birkenhead, and the general face of the walls with a warm coloured sandstone, obtained in the neighbourhood, laid in random courses, and hammer-dressed.* The style adopted is the Domestic Gothic of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The building is from a design by Messrs. Wyatt and Brandon, and will be carried into execution under the joint superintendence of these gentlemen and Mr. Henry Cole, architect, of Birkenhead.

ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL, ROTHERHITHE.

MODERN BRICKWORK.

In the last number of your journal you have inserted a communication, headed "Mode of doing brickwork in the Metropolis," and bearing the signature of "A Bricklayer." Permit me to interfere with *your* province, and "say something about bricklaying," in accordance with the request of your correspondent. It is this:—unless bricklayers are closely watched they will only take up sufficient mortar with the trowel to make a cross joint about one inch in depth, on the inside and outside face of a wall respectively, neglecting altogether to flush up the interior. Grouting is an imperfect and partial remedy, as it is, even if done thoroughly, only performing with thin stuff that which ought to be done with mortar of proper consistence, and is not available where a fair face is required. Let Mr. "Bricklayer" attend to this, and it will be one step in advance for him; and the only excuse I hear is—"We always do it so, Sir; we put a good *bed* of mortar, and it drops into the joints." Any one who has watched the pulling down of a wall built in the ordinary way, will know that the mortar does *not* drop so as to flush the joint, and for this cause it is that so frequently external walls require to be coated with cement to exclude the weather which penetrates them.

There is another cause which has an injurious effect upon bricklaying, but, unlike the former the remedy is not within the control of the workman. It is twofold in application—the use of an inferior material to give the appearance of more value, such as cement to represent stone, and the use of a superior material to portions of a building, conveying the idea that the whole substance is similar to that which is in sight, such as facing with bricks of a finer colour and quality than those used in the body of the work, and facing with stone sahlaring.

I will make no comment on the adoption of either of these modes, or I should run on with an essay on the advantages and disadvantages of "false appearances;" but it is certain that the stability of brickwork is injuriously affected in each case: where facing bricks are used they too often differ in size from the common bricks, so that it is difficult to make them bond well, and, as a remedy, exertions should be made by the builder to procure all his bricks of the same size, although this may not be always practicable: where the facing is of cement or stone the bricklayer becomes careless, because his work will not he visible, and therefore he loses all "pride of craft." Now that the duty is repealed there will probably be more demand for ornamental brickwork, and I have no doubt this will tend to raise up superior workmen.

As to the dispute in the County Court concerning the work at St. Paul's, Rotherhithe, I know nothing; but this I do know—that the bricks used in St. Paul's are stocks of the best quality, and that the mortar was composed of stone lime and clean sharp sand, the whole worked English bond in a very sound manner. However, as any "bricklayer," who will take the trouble to visit the building (which is situate within a stone's throw of Lavender Dock Steam-pier), may ascertain for himself what the *exterior* workmanship is, I will only remark, that all I consider requisite for *good* work will be found in this building,—the materials being of the best description, and the same throughout *all* the thicknesses of all the walls, the bond being well preserved, with cross joints well flushed up.

THE ARCHITECT OF ST. PAUL'S, ROTHERHITHE.

* The building will be fire-proof; Messrs. Fox and Barrett's patent [illegible] being adopted.

OVER HOURS.

Though but an uneducated mason, thinking, as I do, that the system of "over hours" is opposed to the onward progress of mankind, and thinking, as I also do, that it would be easy to abolish it, I have taken the liberty to intrude a few lines on the subject. It is well known that it is a custom in most of the building firms throughout England for the workmen, during the summer months, to work one or two hours per day "over time,"—that is, above the ten hours. There are a great many objections to this system, amongst which I will mention the following:—1. That it does not, in the end, yield any pecuniary benefit to the workmen. 2. Neither does it, in a general way, yield pecuniary benefit to the masters. 3. That it almost entirely prevents the possibility of the workmen making any progress in social, moral, and intellectual advancement. 4. That, owing to the great physical exertion required in most of the building trades, it is impossible for any man to work "over hours" without injuring his constitution. 5. That, when the physical strength of the workmen is depressed and prostrated by too long continued toil, they are, more than at any other time, inclined to seek for excitement from intoxicating liquors, and other sensual enjoyments. 6. There is a desire on the part of some of the master builders, and of their most enlightened and best workmen, to abolish the system.

Now, though there may be many men who would be able to give more weighty and more conclusive arguments why this system of "over hours" should be abolished, I cannot think that those which I have given are either unimportant or unworthy the attention of those to whom I have addressed them. It may be said that I have merely stated objections, without giving any proof of the truth of them. I think that only the two first of these objections require to be proved; the others I conceive to be self-evident. I have said that "the system does not in the end produce any pecuniary benefit to the workmen," and I account for it thus:—Suppose that in the erecting of a new church (or any other public building) there are employed, in the whole of the branches, 100 men; if these 100 men work only one hour per day each "over time," they do the work which would employ ten more men,—who, being prevented by this system from obtaining employment, are compelled to apply for parish relief or to tramp about the country. Now, then, if we take into account all the buildings and public works which go on in this country where "over hours" are made, what a great number of these tens of men shall we have who are receiving parish relief, or who are travelling in a loose and disorderly way about the country, instead of having their share of labour, and the remuneration which would follow that labour. Those employed, too, are of course sooner discharged.

Now, as regards my second objection, "that masters do not receive any pecuniary benefit," I think that it is easy to prove that they do not. The master pays the workman as much for the eleventh hour as he does for any other hour of the day; but it is impossible for any man who works at a laborious trade to do as much work in the eleventh hour as he can in any one of the others. The cause of it is this: he has already worked ten hours,—which is as long as nature designed (if not longer),—he is fatigued and weary, and wishing that it were time to leave work: this being the state of things, it is impossible that he can have as much energy and activity as he has in the preceding part of the day; therefore I think it is quite clear that "over hours" are no benefit to the masters.

And now, what is my intention in writing to you? It is to direct the attention of the builders and their workmen to the injustice and the evil effects of this system, and to call upon them to get rid of it for ever in this country, by simply giving it up.

AN OPERATIVE MASON.

ON ENTASIS OR ANT' ENTASIS.

In order for any individual fully to appreciate the importance of the methods for producing elliptical "entasis," or ant' entasis, they should be practically acquainted with the means hitherto used to produce a swell in a column, and their imperfections when applied with the greatest attention to accuracy.

Peter Nicholson enumerates seven methods for finding *points* in the profile of a column, and then applying a bent lath and drawing the curve.

But this can never produce the curve aimed at, whatever it may be, as both ends of such a line, when drawn against the lath, will be straight.

Mr. Nicholson also gives two methods for drawing a curved entasis by continuous motion,—the one for the arc of a circle, the other for a conchoidal line.

The arc of a circle, a uniform curve, is not "*esthetically*" adapted for either a diminishing column, or a still more tapering spire,—most objectionable for the latter.

Mr. Nicholson gives the old method of producing the conchoidal line by a trammel with grooves,—which *binders*, indeed *trammels*, rather than assists in producing a true and beautiful line, which can by more simple rulers be drawn with facility and greatest accuracy.

But this latter method becomes unmanageable on a large scale. However, by another and as simple a principle, every portion of a conchoidal line, for an entasis of any height, can be described by continuous motion most accurately.

In those enumerated by Mr. Nicholson,

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